

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4959

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, UR
SUBJ: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW DELAYED

REF: ATHENS 4455 EXDIS

1. THE CONTEMPLATED TRIP TO MOSCOW OF THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER -- REPORTEDLY THE FIRST SUCH HIGH LEVEL VISIT THIS CENTURY -- HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED. FOLLOWING A WELL PUBLICIZED MEETING JUNE 13 BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR OUDALTSOV, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE FORMER NOW PLANS TO GO DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF SEPTEMBER. THE EXPECTATION HAD BEEN THAT RALLIS WOULD TRAVEL
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IN JULY, BUT THE RUSSIANS HAVE APPARENTLY INDICATED THAT GROMYKO AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS HAD A FULL PROGRAM THIS SUMMER AND THE FALL WAS PREFERABLE.

2. TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S TRIP NEXT WEEK TO THE SOVIET UNION AND REPORTS THAT HE WILL SIGN A "POLITICAL DOCUMENT" HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE

ATTENTION IN THE GREEK MEDIA. THE PRESS IN PARTICULAR HAS SUGGESTED THAT A SIMILAR INITIATIVE BY CARAMANLIS MIGHT BE IN THE OFFING TO COUNTER ECEVIT'S TRIP AND TO BALANCE OFF THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT SOJOURN IN THE U.S. THE PRESENCE IN GREECE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO OF POLITBORO SECRETARY CHERNIENKO AND HIS OFFHAND RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION THAT THE USSR WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS IF GREECE WERE SO INCLINED, FED SPECULATION IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS THAT GREECE, TOO, WOULD SIGN A POLITICAL DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, BOTH THE GOG AND THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY HAVE ISSUED DENIALS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNING ANY SUCH DOCUMENT HAD BEEN RAISED BY EITHER SIDE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, RALLIS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 14 THAT THE PRESS TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN INACCURATE AND UNFORTUNATE. THE ONLY ACCORDS HE EXPECTED TO SIGN DURING HIS FORTHCOMING RRIP WERE A CONSULAR AGREEMENT (WHICH HAS BEEN FULLY NEGOTIATED) AND A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, THE CONCLUSION OF WHICH IS STILL DEPENDENT UPON THE SOVIETS RELENTING ON SOME OF THEIR DEMANDS WHICH THE GREEKS DO NOT INTEND TO SATISFY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO MENTIONED THAT BOTH SIDES ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ALTHOUGH THIS ACCORD IS STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF NEGOTIATION.
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4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A DELEGATION FROM THE SUPREME SOVIET WILL BE COMING TO GREECE NEXT WEEK, RECIPROCATING A SIMILAR VISIT LAST YEAR TO THE USSR BY A GREEK PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. CARAMANLIS AND OTHER RANKING GREEK OFFICIALS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE RUSSIANS.

5. FINALLY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT CARAMANLIS IS PLANNING TO VISIT SOFIA IN EARLY JULY FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS PART OF HIS EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH GREECE'S BALKAN NEIGHBORS.
MCCLOSKEY

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. MCCALLIE, S/S-O.

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